

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 174

By Eldridge

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Margaret Sipes, on her selection as the 2004 Wal-Mart Local Teacher of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Margaret Sipes is one such estimable educator, who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, a native of Meadville, Mrs. Sipes was selected as the 2004 Wal-Mart Local Teacher of the Year, an honor most befitting her outstanding tenure as a teacher as it recognizes the positive influence she has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, nominated for the award by Pope Elementary School Principal Emily Crabtree, Margaret Sipes received a \$1,000 grant, payable to the school, to be used for an educational program of her choice; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Sipes has served with acumen and alacrity as a fourth grade teacher at Pope Elementary School; she has taught in the classroom for twenty-one exemplary years, seven of them at Pope; and

WHEREAS, in addition to teaching, Mrs. Sipes also runs the before-and after-school care programs at Pope Elementary; and

WHEREAS, during her illustrious teaching career, Mrs. Sipes has also taught German to elementary and high school students; and

WHEREAS, Margaret Sipes, formerly Margaret Smith, is the daughter of Opal Smith of Meadville and the loving wife of our former colleague, Representative Bill Sipes; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of the University of Mississippi and the German Institute at Montana, Margaret Sipes obtained a master's degree plus forty-five hours in reading from the

University of Southern Mississippi; she received one of the few Career Level III certificates that have been awarded in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Sipes is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, she truly serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, Margaret Sipes truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Margaret Sipes on being chosen as the 2004 Wal-Mart Local Teacher of the Year, commend her exceptional service to the children of Pope Elementary School, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.